

# **News**

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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## **Veterans may be eligible for additional benefits**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Macomb County Vietnam-era veterans who were denied benefits for exposure to Agent Orange because they were not actually “on the ground” in Vietnam are encouraged to call the Macomb County Veterans Services Department to see if they now qualify.

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled last month that Department of Veterans Affairs illegally denied service-related disability benefits and healthcare to veterans who never set foot in Vietnam, but served in neighboring countries or offshore in ships.

Agent Orange was an herbicide used to defoliate dense jungles during the Vietnam war, but it was found to cause many health problems such as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin’s disease and various forms of cancer.

“Veterans who served in the vicinity of Vietnam and have a disability that could be caused by exposure to herbicides should contact us immediately to apply for benefits,” said Richard Weaver, director of the Macomb County Veterans Affairs Department. “Spouses of veterans who died from a related disability also may qualify for dependent benefits or other compensation.”

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According to Weaver, the ruling may affect millions of Vietnam veterans, many of whom have been denied medical benefits for more than 40 years. Now, veterans will be eligible for benefits covering medical expenses based on the severity of their problems.

Veterans who think they may qualify should call the Macomb County Veterans Services Department at 586-469-5313.

### **About Macomb County**

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state's fastest rates of growth. Its 834,000 residents make it Michigan's third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan's second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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